

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 SCCT-02 SY-04

TRSE-00 USSS-00 DRC-01 /050 W

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R 030740Z MAY 74

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 604

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 4958

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN HK

SUBJECT: CIVAIR -- AIRPORT SECURITY

REF: A. STATE 089866; B. HONG KONG 3926

SUMMARY: AS SUGGESTED REFTELS, CONGEN HAS REVIEWED EFFECTIVENESS OF NEW SECURITY PROCEDURES AT HONG KONG AIRPORT. IN GENERAL, SECURITY NOW MUCH IMPROVED ALTHOUGH PROBLEM AREAS REMAIN. VISIT OF HONOLULU FAA REPRESENTATIVES HERE MAY 9-10 WILL PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR FURTHER REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION STEPS SUGGESTED STATE REFTEL. END SUMMARY

1. CONGEN BELIEVES SECURITY SITUATION AT AIRPORT HAS SHOWN MARKED IMPROVEMENT SINCE INTRODUCTION OF STERILE AREA CONCEPT APRIL 1. THIS VIEW SUPPORTED BY LOCAL U.S. AIRLINE REPRESENTATIVES. DURING CONVERSATION WITH CONGEN MAY 3, PAN AM MANAGER SAID HIS NEW YORK SUPERIORS MUCH IMPRESSED WITH SECURITY SYSTEM HERE, PARTICULARLY COMPARED TO OTHER REGIONAL AIRPORTS, DURING RECENT VISIT; NW AIRPORT MANAGER ADVISED THAT DURING MAY 2 MEETING OF AIRPORT OPERATORS COMMITTEE, NO SERIOUS COMPLAINTS OVER SYSTEM VOICED, THOUGH PROBLEMS REMAIN; TWA MANAGER ADDED THAT TWA HAS GIVEN UP ITS OWN SECURITY CHECK BECAUSE OF EFFECTIVENESS OF NEW SYSTEM.

2. NW AND TWA SOURCES HAVE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN KEN
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BARNES (PARA. 2, STATE 067293). THEY STATE THAT BARNES

HAS DONE OUTSTANDING JOB AND THAT HIS LEG WORK, AT EXPENSE OF EMPLOYER CATHAY PACIFIC, HAD FACILITATED INTRODUCTION OF NEW SYSTEM. CONGEN ACCORDINGLY NOW HAS LITTLE REASON TO DOUBT HIS CAPABILITY.

3. X-RAY EQUIPMENT (PARA. 2, 067293) HAS NOT BEEN PUT IN GENERAL USE. ACCORDING TO TWA SECURITY REP (DANA HARRIS), THE LEGAL OFFICE OF QUANTAS AIRLINES HAS REFUSED PERMISSION FOR USE OF THIS EQUIPMENT ON THEIR FLIGHTS GIVEN POSSIBLE HEALTH HAZARD AND RESULTANT LIABILITY. DURING MAY 2 VISIT TO AIRPORT, CONGEN OFFICER WAS TOLD THIS EQUIPMENT IS BEING USED, BUT ONLY FOR LIMITED SPECIAL OCCASIONS WHEN OTHER DEVICES CANNOT REVEAL CONTENTS OF LUGGAGE. OPERATORS ARE AWARE OF POSSIBLE HAZARDS, AND PASSENGERS ARE NOT EXPOSED. THE FAA GUIDELINES ON X-RAY SYSTEMS RECENTLY SENT TO CONGEN BY EB/OA/AVP HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED TO SECURAIR CHIEF ABEL, AND WILL BE DISCUSSED WITH HIM IN MORE DETAIL NEXT WEEK.

4. DESPITE THE GENERALLY POSITIVE VIEW PROVIDED ABOVE, CONGEN CONTINUES TO SEE UNRESOLVED PROBLEM AREAS. THESE INCLUDE NEED TO TIGHTEN ACCESS TO RANP AREAS AS CITED STATE REFTEL. THIS IN TURN RELATED TO PROBLEM OF CO-ORDINATION: POLICE (HKG) CONTROL SIDE ACCESS, WHILE SECURAIR CONTROLS MAIN PASSENGER FLOW THROUGH STERILE AREA.

5. CONGEN WILL REVIEW CURRENT SYSTEM WITH FAA TEAM VISITING HONG KONG MAY 9-10. TEAM WILL VISIT AIRPORT AND HAVE LUNCH WITH HKG DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION. VISIT WILL ALSO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY TO CONSIDER RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED PARAGRAPH 2 STATE REFTEL.
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